

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 14, 16, 18, and 24 are allowed.

At the same time, the Examiner rejected claims 26 for formal reasons.

The Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 14, 16, 18, and 24 has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with the indication of allowance, these claims have been retained as they were.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of claim 26, this claim has been canceled and replaced with a new claim 27. Claim 27 has been drafted to define method claims in accordance with the present invention.

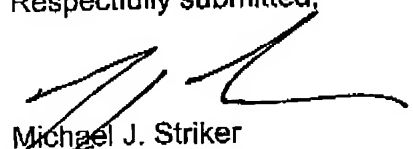
It is believed that claim 27 should also be considered as being in allowable condition.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is

most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233